



The Maine Farmer.

N. T. TRUE,
S. L. BOARDMAN, Editors.
Our Home, Our Country, and Our Brother Man.

Utilization of Factory Waste.

Our farmers are approaching the time, and that too at no slow pace, when the production of a larger amount of human food from a given area, than now, will not only form their great study but become a matter of stern necessity. To accomplish this a great change must take place as well in the saving as in the application of the fertilizing material for our farms—a change in which our farmers are now proverbially wasteful and indifferent. This saving in manure and in whatever in any form can contribute to the fertilizing elements required by the land will be forced upon our cultivators. Some farms are rather deficient of manure or other aids to the manure heap, and it will not do to always rely upon foreign or concentrated fertilizers. To what shall we turn as a means of augmenting our home resources for manure? We answer, in a measure, to the various local manufacturing establishments in which our farmers are now so largely engaged, and which are now producing so much waste material, and which is now allowed to go to waste.

Take woolen factories for instance: The waste that comes from sorting over to be manipulated, possesses a very high manurial value. Our domestic wool to be sure is mainly cleaned before it reaches the manufacturers' hands, but in many establishments of this kind large quantities of foreign wool are cleaned, and much of this is lost, which is not lost but from South America is completely filled with burrs which adhere to the wool. In cleansing, sorting and washing this wool, much of it comes off with the burrs. This, as well as the waste in which the wool has been soiled, is rich in the elements of fertility, and if saved and absorbed by the use of manure, much, much, would be of great benefit to all crops to which it was applied. Yet notwithstanding its value, it is in most factories regarded as not worth saving. Again there is a great deal of waste in the soap works used in filling and scouring the cloth in such establishments, and this generally finds its way into the canal in the same stream that carries the mill. When visiting the mill at North Vassalboro', a few years since, Mr. Lang called our attention to the waste of this rich matter and was then about putting in operation a contrivance to save it all after it was used for its first work. This was to be absorbed by solid matter, and Mr. Lang assured us it would save in the single mill at Vassalboro' thousands of barrels manure, and the waste of this manure would be of great value to the farmer. We should like to know if his plan for saving it has been put in operation.

There is also a considerable waste of valuable manurial agents in all establishments where wool pulling is carried on, although it occurs to a far less extent than in larger factories. The wool at these establishments is all sorted, and from many of the skins considerable quantities of fat-locks with, is clipped off and thrown away. After the wool has been pulled from the skins they are thrown into a vat and lined. At the wool pulling establishment near this city, some sixty thousand skins are pulled annually, and in dressing or lining them a considerable quantity of line is used, one oak being required to prepare from five to eight hundred skins. There are also particles of flesh and trimmings, which go into the vat with the skin and these, together with the line are all wasted, notwithstanding the entire mass would form an active and valuable dressing for all crops. A practical acquaintance with the nature of the waste of this waste than from all sorts of stable manure, and yet it is not so hard to regard as worth enough to pay for carting it from the factory vats to the farms. Leached ashes and the other refuse matter of soap boiling and tallow candle factories are most valuable fertilizers, and are becoming more highly prized by our farmers than heretofore. And it is time their eyes were opened to this fact. We have too long allowed leached ashes, ashes of our Maine potash establishments to be thrown into a vat and lined. At the market garden lands of Long Island, and while we cannot bring back those already carried there in large quantities, we can put a stop to any more going the same way, and retain them to enrich our own farms, and the pockets of our own farmers. The former contain portions of lime, magnesia, the phosphates, &c., and the latter are worth three times the value of farm dung.

To make manure is true of the refuse from tanneries, such as horse-pie, trimmings of the hides, and the poorer quality of hair, which are used in the compost heap, making a good and lasting manure; leather scraps, and the refuse of saddlery shops; the waste charcoal from blacksmith shops, furnaces and engine houses; sawdust, fine shavings and wood trimmings from lumber and furniture factories; the residue from chimneys; offal from slaughter houses; the refuse from starch manufacturing establishments, consisting of the feed water used in making starch from grain or potatoes, as well as the manurial resources from many other kinds of manufacturing establishments, now generally thought of little or no value, or at least not of sufficient amount to compensate for the labor of procuring them.

Some may think fertilizing matter can be more easily obtained from other sources, and that it will be a long time before it will be necessary to resort to the means we have just mentioned to procure the elements needed by our farms for the production of breadstuffs. But it is not so. In the old countries every manure, and many others not specified, are resorted to, and deemed necessary to keep up the fertility of their land. So in a short time it will be with us. Year by year the food producing capacities of our old farms are growing less and less, and but for the new lands of the West we should be hungry much of the time. It is not prudent to think of always depending upon the manurefound in the soil, and the refuse of our various industries, to make up the deficiency, and the refuse brought neglected home resources of every kind must be brought under contribution. Some of these we have pointed out above, and farmers must see to it that the waste heretofore suffered from these sources, is at once stopped and the same turned to profitable account. When they are compelled to do this they will regret it was not done before.

Additional about Exchanges.

The *Gardener's Monthly* commences its tenth volume in a new dress, and upon a much nicer quality of paper than heretofore, but we miss the old border to the page and the rustic letter to the heading, to which we had become much attached. It is one of the best of our horticultural magazines.

The *Farm and Fireside* commenced at Woonsocket, R. I., last year, and was a readable and well made up sheet, has been discontinued at the close of its first volume.

The *Horticulturalist*, devoted to the interests of the American householder, has been discontinued at the close of its first volume.

A Review of the Session.

The thirteenth annual session of the State Board of Agriculture, which closed in this city last week, was somewhat behind the previous sessions in point of interest, due in a great measure, doubtless, to the large number of new members present. Of the seventeen members composing the Board—no member at large, representing the State Agricultural Society, and one from each county in the State—nine, or a little more than half were new members, only two of whom had ever served before at the Board, and who consequently, were unacquainted with the business of the session. However, the organization has the help of some strong minds, and it is at once set about the work before it in a glowing, farmer-like manner, quite refreshing to see.

On the first day it entered into a somewhat prolonged discussion on the subject of wheat culture, and a committee consisting of three members representing the growing counties was appointed to take into consideration that part of the Governor's message relating to this subject. The matter was subsequently brought up again and the committee instructed to report upon the same to the Secretary in season for their deliberations to be incorporated in his annual report for 1868. It is much to be regretted that a subject of so much importance should have been put off in this way, as an expression of the Board, in regard to the increased production of wheat and the subject of a State bounty upon the same, should have gone out to the Legislature and the people of the State, at once. Had they done what was strictly within their province to do, recommended to the Legislature a bounty on wheat, it would doubtless have had great weight with that body in shaping their action upon the matter. The thing is needed now as it is ever to be needed, and if a small bounty would stimulate its culture it should not be withheld.

Some of the reports or papers presented by members were scholarly productions, and others contained a great amount of practical and useful information. Among these were those of Mr. Dix to the "Relation of the Common Schools to the Industrial Culture," and of "Bee Culture," of Mr. Wason on "The Farmers' Road to Success," (the road of liberal manuring); that of Mr. Moore on "Sheep Husbandry in Somerset County," and of Mr. Ayer on the means of increasing the fertility of our farms. So far as the presentation of essays or reports by the members was concerned, the present session was not up to the mark, and much of the time was spent in the single act of Vassalboro', thousands of barrels manure, and the waste of this manure would be of great value to the farmer. We should like to know if his plan for saving it has been put in operation.

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Notes from our Copy Drawer.

MORE LARGE CATTLE. Our record of big steers grows larger, and the list increases to such extent we can hardly find room for it in our columns. Among the most noted are the following: Winthrop Morrill, Waterville, two-year-old, 7 feet 6 inches; also another pair of the same age, 7 feet 6 inches; Dow Davis, Waterville, two pairs of three-year-olds, 7 feet 6 inches; Ephraim Morrill, Waterville, one-year-old, 6 feet 3 inches; Isaac Paul, Waterville, a pair which at two years old, weighed 7 feet 2 inches, and at three years old (present age) 7 feet 9 inches; Jonathan S. Longley, Northridge, a bridge steer, two years old last spring, weighing 6 feet 8 inches, standing 4 feet 8 inches high, and measuring 7 feet 2 inches in length. For this last the owner desires a mate.

INFORMATION WANTED. In No. 8 of our present volume, J. J. Merrill gave the account of some extraordinary results of the application of plaster to a field of grain. One ton of plaster was applied to the field, and in three years the yield of hay increased from six to thirty-two tons. A correspondent at Paris, Mr. N. B. Martin, in a recent letter, desires us to ask Mr. J. J. Merrill to state the dimensions of the field, and the rate of plaster applied to the acre. Very pertinent and suggestive queries.

WHEAT CULTURE. Mr. Henry Poor writes with his usual enthusiasm about wheat and corn culture in our State, and we hope his letter will not be overlooked. In a private note he says he is "glad our farmers are ripening into the belief that Maine is a wheat growing State," and adds, "I was pleased to see your Governor so interested in the matter. It goes out to the people from the right source."

ANSWER TO QUERY. An Lord of Great Falls, N. H., in reply to the query in our issue of 23d ult., in regard to pigs losing the use of their legs and hind parts, says: "I would suggest the following as a remedy. Take a piece of garget root three or four inches long and soak it in a quart of warm water and mix it with their feed once or twice a week, or even often if it will do no harm."

LARGE YIELD. We are informed that Mr. Otis Croby of Pittsford, raised the past year, from one bushel of the Early Goodrich, forty bushels of good, sound potatoes. The space of land occupied was ten rods long and one and one-half rods wide.

OXFORD DOWNS FOR MITTENS. Mr. Otis Reed of Upper Sillwater, writes us that on the 18th ult., he killed an Oxford Down ram three years old, the weight of which was as follows: carcass 120 lbs., rough tail 13 lbs., pel 17 1/2 lbs., making a total of 160 1/2 lbs.

TEES AND PLANTS. (J. A. H. Dikmott). The fruit trees you enquire for can be procured of S. L. Goodale, Saco; and he can also, we presume, furnish you with the Rhododendron Maximum, Azalea Nuttalliana, and Kalina latifolia.

TRAINING OR BREAKING COLTS. We can give our Sheepscot Bridge correspondent no satisfactory information upon this subject, and must refer him to the works of Jennings and Herbert for the same. They can be had of A. Williams & Co., 100 Washington street, Boston.

New Publications.

THE AMERICAN HERD BOOK. Containing Pedigrees of Short Horns, Jerseys, Ayrshires, &c. By Lewis F. Allen. Volume VIII. Buffalo, N. Y.: 1868. 8vo., pp. 622.

The present volume of this indispensable encyclopedia for all Short Horn breeders, contains the pedigree of something over one thousand bulls, and about two thousand and five hundred cows, and embodies the results of nearly two years' breeding, the seventh volume having been issued early in 1866. This volume contains the names of eight hundred and ninety-three breeders, and we regret they are not arranged in the index by States. As they are not we cannot find without too much searching the names of many Maine breeders. Those of Parmeter & Spaulding of China, and Warren Percival Esq., of Vassalboro', are however noticeable in looking through the volume, the latter of whom has the pedigree of twenty-four animals entered.

We need not speak of the value of this work, as it is well known to every intelligent breeder, and none can breed intelligently and satisfactorily without a close reference to the different strains of blood found recorded therein. The book is well printed, is illustrated by eleven engravings of prize animals, and as the edition is limited, those desiring it should at once address the compiler at Black Rock, N. Y. A few entire sets of the work can be obtained.

Communications.

For the Maine Farmer.

Red Clover as a Renovating Crop—1.

Somebody, in the *American Agriculturist*, once called clover "the great renovating crop of America." Whether this idea is original with the writer, the *American Agriculturist*, in which it appeared, cannot say. But at the time, it struck me, a novice in the science of farming, as something new and worthy of attention. Since I have been led to suspect that it is also new, at least so far as practice is concerned, to the great body of our Maine farmers. I have conversed with a good many intelligent and successful farmers in different parts of the State, but have met with very few indeed who regarded clover with any degree of interest, aside from its value as a fodder crop; and even so but a few, generally regarding it as of less importance than berdergrass, the latter being relied upon for the main crop.

This indifference upon the subject of clover as a "renovating crop," is, of course, no doubt, to the fact that the majority of Maine farms are comparatively new, and consequently do not yet require a renovating crop. Much of the clover raised upon these new lands more nearly resembles pea vines than grass, owing to the richness of the land and the small quantity of seed sown. Hence the disfavor into which it has fallen as a fodder crop.

As a rule, I believe that clover is not sown to any considerable extent, except with timothy, even upon new farms in this State, where it grows luxuriantly. It is sown with timothy only because it produces a full crop sooner than the latter. It is evidently not understood that clover is a very valuable crop, and that it is a very profitable one to raise. It is a very profitable one to raise, and it is a very profitable one to raise. It is a very profitable one to raise, and it is a very profitable one to raise.

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Something, then, we must have to renovate our worn out lands. For the most of us to buy and haul manure is a very expensive matter. We can get it for nothing, but we can get it for nothing. We can get it for nothing, but we can get it for nothing. We can get it for nothing, but we can get it for nothing.

After the informal discussion on the subject of bee-keeping before the Board of Agriculture on Friday, 24th ult., the preliminary organization for a State Bee-keepers Association was formed by choice of the following officers:

Bee-keepers Association.

President—Rev. Samuel F. Dix, Bath.
Secretary—S. L. Boardman, Augusta.
Executive Committee—R. D. Paul, Farmington; Geo. W. Blanchard, West Gardiner; Samuel Kim, Monmouth.

The objects of the Association are to extend the keeping of the honey bee, to gather and disseminate information in regard to its management, and to form a better means of co-operation among bee-keepers in different portions of the State. Arrangements for an exhibition in June next, and also one in autumn during the period of holding the annual fairs, are to be made. This branch of rural economy has been too much overlooked among us, and it is hoped much good will grow out of the formation of this society. We learn it is the purpose of the Association to soon issue a circular letter of inquiry to all bee-keepers, soliciting information upon all the important points in the business of bee management, which will be incorporated into an annual report to be presented to the Association during the next session of the Board of Agriculture in this city.

Mr. Goodale's Report for 1867.

The report of the Secretary of the Maine Board of Agriculture for the year just closed, contains a full report of the doings of the Board at its session in 1867, with the reports presented by members at that time, comprising the first eighty-two pages of the volume. This is followed by an exhaustive and elaborate paper on the Chemistry of Manures, from the pen of the Secretary, to which some allusion was made in our paper a few weeks since. The next article is on the Agriculture and Industry of Kennebec County by the junior editor of the *FARMER*, being the conclusion of a Survey of the County, the first part of which was published in the *FARMER* for Nov. 1867. Following this we have brief papers on Sugar Kraits, by a Lincoln county farmer; the Attraction of Ansonia County in an Agricultural Point of View, by the Secretary; the Current Water, by John B. Hays, and the Salem Paper by the Secretary. The entire report forms a volume of 248 pages.

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Cultivation of Hops.

The increasing demand for hops both in our own and foreign markets has made this one of the most profitable crops which can be cultivated. The bulk of the production of this country is grown in New York and Wisconsin, although large sections of Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont are adapted to the culture of hops, and the quality of those grown in these States is fully equal to those produced in New York. Hops can be raised on any good corn land, but as the plants are very liable to injury from blight and mildew, as well as subject to attack from various insects, great care is needed in selecting a suitable situation for a yard. A location should be chosen on high ground where water will not stand at any season of the year, and where there will be no obstruction to the rays of the sun.

The ground should be thoroughly plowed and highly manured, and if the soil is deficient in lime, that article must be applied at the rate of one quart to each bushel. The rows should be eight feet apart, and four rows are usually planted in a hill. If the soil is poor, low and a little care used in placing the sets, but a few hills will not replanting. As a rule no crop is gathered the first year, and potatoes or turnips should be planted between the rows to insure a thorough cultivation. Frequent stirring of the ground and perfect freedom from weeds are essential to secure large crops. Poles for the vines to climb should be set early in the spring of the second year; they should be from fifteen to twenty feet long and placed two at each hill and about fifteen inches apart. As the value of the hop largely depends on the quality of the hops, this should be a very important consideration. In addition to this, they should have a few cuts each day, and access to a yard supplied with a plenty of water. In regard to selecting the sets, the sets should be of a good grade, and the sets should be of a good grade, and the sets should be of a good grade.

Some may wish to know why I should prefer this grade, and I reply, in the first place it is admitted that hops are much more valuable than any other crop that our country produces. Their value is very long and constant, and very hardy, capable of enduring any amount of cold and wet. To my own mind they are undoubtedly the most desirable crop for the farmer to raise in the winter, the price being regulated by the market, and is known in the market as coming wool, it being the highest price in the market. For much they stand first and foremost, and when fastened grow to a very great weight, often reaching as high as three hundred and fifty pounds.

Massachusetts Agricultural College.

The annual report of the trustees of the State Agricultural College, submitted to the Legislature, is a voluminous and exceedingly interesting document. It opens historically, touching the history of the idea of agricultural education, and its growth from 1850 to the present time; and then goes on to give a sketch of the life of the college, an elaborate description of the buildings, and a statement of the plan of study pursued and to be pursued.

Early in the trustees' account of the college allusion is made to the resignation of Professor Chauncey B. Allen, President, and his removal from the community, as an irreparable loss to the college and the Commonwealth; the death of Hon. Joseph A. Pond is also noted in fitting language, and his strong devotion to the enterprise spoken of.

Concerning the opening of the college, the report contains several interesting statements. On the 7th of August last, W. S. Clark was elected President; S. S. Sells, professor of mathematics; and H. H. Goodell, professor of modern languages; and the college was opened on the 21st of October. The number of students steadily increased until before the close of the term, December 17th, forty-seven were admitted to the freshman— and of course the only—class. Several others were admitted, but rejected on account of deficient scholarship, so that during the first term, more than fifty applied at the college for admission. Besides these nearly as many more, who were admitted to the college, have been asked for information and intimated a wish to enjoy the advantages of the institution. With the present buildings no new ones can be formed, and the graduation of the college will cost the expense of new buildings.

Towards the close of the report, the trustees speak of the amount of money the students earn by working on the farm, and state that by so doing, the students are enabled to pay for their education. The college has a large number of students, and the trustees speak of the amount of money the students earn by working on the farm, and state that by so doing, the students are enabled to pay for their education. The college has a large number of students, and the trustees speak of the amount of money the students earn by working on the farm, and state that by so doing, the students are enabled to pay for their education.

Feed Roots to Horses.

It is probable that all our domestic animals, in their original condition, were located in climates that would afford them food throughout the entire year, and that they were endowed with the power of collecting that food, as our cows and horses do in the summer months. They would not be so dependent upon New England climate, as the moose and reindeer do; so that they are in an artificial condition, in some degree, and this condition ought to be taken into consideration in our modes of feeding them.

It seems to us to be contrary to their nature, for horses to be kept any great length of time upon dry food, and grain, and without some other food, and that they were endowed with the power of collecting that food, as our cows and horses do in the summer months. They would not be so dependent upon New England climate, as the moose and reindeer do; so that they are in an artificial condition, in some degree, and this condition ought to be taken into consideration in our modes of feeding them.

Improvement in Grain.

Experiments have demonstrated, and analogy has shown, that the finest and best samples of seed continued for years, will improve the quality and quantity of the product. A better wheat is thus raised; even a variety may be established. On this principle (in farm stock) we have the Short-horn, the blooded horse, and the different breeds of sheep, swine, poultry, &c. It is not, however, made known on the history of the improvement of grain, but it is made known on the history of the improvement of grain, but it is made known on the history of the improvement of grain.

The White Spruce.



Augusta, Saturday, Feb. 8, 1896.

TERMS OF THE MAINE FARMER.

82.00 in advance, or \$2.00 if not paid within three months of the date of publication.

All payments must be made in advance.

A subscription directed to change the post office address of his paper must be accompanied by the name of the office to which it has previously been sent, otherwise we shall be unable to comply with his request.

Mr. T. DARRING will call upon subscribers in Hancock County during the month of January.

Mr. R. L. BROWN, agent of the Maine Farmer, will call on West Somerset during the month of January.

Woman's Rights.

We do not wish to discuss the question of woman's rights, but rather to show American women and men—especially Maine women, how they have in the past years, what they are now doing, and what they are capable of doing. The mothers who engaged in the duties and trials of pioneer life in Maine were noble women. It was no uncommon thing for young women of excellent families and surrounded by educational and religious privileges, and all the endearments of friends and home, to follow some young man into the wilds of Maine, and commence housekeeping in a log house, built on a spot of cleared forest, and there help their husband make a home. It required years of toil to make a comfortable home and rear a family, but there was pleasure in all this. Anticipation of future prosperity stimulated them to their daily tasks. These were the mothers that made strong men. The instruction they received in early life served in turn for their own children, and the family friends were the school of many a family in those days. The mothers became mothers in Israel, laborers with their hands, and laying the foundation for future generations. They had no aspirations to lord it over the sterner sex, only so far as they found them in the wrong. The strong women of those days could cook and spin wool, and yet talk over knotty theological questions as vigorously as men of to-day. We well remember one of those women whose praise was held in remembrance, who raised a large family of boys that have exhibited the good effects of a mother's training in those days. She could utter a moral precept which would leave its impress upon the minds of her children. It cost her no effort to do it. Those women shared the burdens of their husbands with cheerful and happy hearts. No man can look back upon such a mother but with reverence.

We would not be understood to imply that there are no smart women at the present day. On the contrary, we are certain that farm women have, on the whole, quite as hard a time as do their grandmothers. The tyrant father is not wholly kept out of his home. A thousand and one petty cares serve to fritter away a woman's time and duties of her household. Nevertheless, the minds of our women of the present day are more active as a rule than formerly. Enter an intelligent farmer, and the mother of the household holds as strong a sway over the children, and express her views with as much clearness and decision as they ever did since the world was made. There is more physical weakness among our farmers' wives than formerly, and it is a condition that ought not to exist. The tyrant father, which strained our mothers' chests as in a vise, the hot, unventilated room, the hot cooking stove, and the fire place, and the more stimulating food than formerly, have done their work towards enfeebling the bodies of our wives.

In consideration of these facts, there are certain rights which woman should secure, and do not demand special legislation to secure. The right to more frequent occasions of relaxation from care than formerly, is one that demands serious attention. The new exploded custom of going a visiting should be revived. The woman who can leave her household cares for a half-year, and with only a few dollars, work visit her neighbors, finds it a season of refreshment to her body and mind. As it now is, if a woman or any public gathering demanding the aid of woman is to take place, they are put to the greatest degree of inconvenience, anxiety and labor, to prepare for the expected entertainment. The lords of creation can assemble and praise what woman has done, but that does not lessen her cares.

For those women who desire to engage in the battle of life single handed, there are abundant opportunities, perhaps not so inviting as those of the married woman, but they can be successful. We know that a few young women in Maine, who have by their intellectual discipline and scholarly attainment, has not suffered in comparison with that of the other sex, who have gone to other States and have become successful teachers and good wives and mothers. We know the girl whose earliest social position was the most unfavorable for advancement, yet she has secured a position in society of no mean importance. We have known the common school teacher to go to the metropolis, engage in business and succeed with men, import her own goods from abroad, and compete in accumulating a handsome property. We have known Maine girls go to Massachusetts and elsewhere, and secure money enough to buy a home for her aged parents. We love to record those things. They show what we are capable of doing as a people, and while there may be evils in our present system, there is still a great deal of good left.

MAINE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION. The Semi-annual convention of this association was held in this city on Wednesday last and the attendance of physicians from various parts of the State was quite large. Dr. Tewksbury, President, welcomed the convention in a short but eloquent address, in which he referred especially to the relations of the members of the profession to each other and the public. Reports were received from the various County Associations.

Dr. Dana, from the Committee on procuring a charter and appropriation for a Maine State Hospital, reported the same committee had secured a charter from the Legislature, and the Committee on Anatomical Bill, reported similar action on part of that committee, and read the bill as offered to said committee.

The bill provides for procuring subjects for anatomical purposes from jails, prisons, hospitals and almshouses of towns of five thousand and more inhabitants, in cases where the deceased had expressed no wish before death for burial, or where no friends claim them within twenty-four hours after death.

Dr. Chadwick, from Committee on Publications of Transactions, made a partial report which was accepted.

In the evening many members of the Legislature were present and the session was confined to a discussion of the subjects embodied in the above reports.

The Universalist Love last week, was in all respects one of the most attractive and successful ever held in this city, and the friends of the Society have every reason to be gratified at the results of their efforts in providing the people with pleasing and popular series of entertainments. The beautiful fairy opera of "The Snow Flake," presented with the accessories of scenery, music and the dancing of the children, was admirably performed each evening of the Love to large and delighted audiences. The receipts of the three evenings foot up \$1,615.53. A Sanborn Steam Fire Proof safe was awarded on Friday evening to Dr. Chamberlain, he having received 2100 of the 4250 votes thrown.

Maine Historical Society.

The special meeting of the Maine Historical Society held at the Court House in this city on the afternoon and evening of Thursday of last week was one of the most interesting we have ever attended, and the character of the papers presented were such as should have called out a much larger audience. The President of the Society, Hon. E. E. Burrows, presided at the meeting. After the reading of the minutes, the afternoon was one by Judge Goffey of Bangor on "Bashaba and the Tarraines," giving an account of the Shell Deposits on Goose Island in Casco Bay by Mr. Swan, a member of the Society; by Rev. Dr. Ballard of Brunswick, Secretary of the Society, devoted to an investigation of the question as to which one of the rivers of Maine was the river described by the exploring company of the Popham Colony under Capt. Raleigh Eliot as the "river of the great abundance" which the learned author believes to have been what is now known as the Arrowsic River; and one from the pen of William Allen of Norridgewock, entitled, "The Old and the New," and giving a description of the present times as compared with those of his boyhood, eighty years ago.

In the evening the following papers were read, "Anecdotes of Parson John Murray of Boothbay," by Dr. Joseph McKee of Brunswick; "The Waconags as a Race," by Rufus K. Sewall of Wiscasset; "Remarks on the Language of the Oldtime Indians," by Mr. Dr. Ballard; "Remarks on the Maine Atlantic Coast in the 16th Century," by Hon. William Willis of Portland; and "Early Administration of Justice in York County," by the President, Judge Bourne.

Hon. John A. Poor read several extracts of letters from Rev. Dr. Woods who is now in Europe collecting material in relation to our early colonial history, and a committee was appointed to present the correspondence to the Governor to be laid before the Legislature at the discretion of His Excellency. There was presented a paper by Mr. Benjamin Davis of Bangor, on the subject of an original commission issued by Gov. Shirley to Capt. North in command of Fort Penacook, and by William A. Drew of a relic of Arnold's Expedition, consisting of a piece of old paper found in a mill-gut while the same was being washed in this city, and having upon it the words, "1775, J. B. Dinkirk, with Arnold." In the discussions that followed the reading of the several papers much interesting information was conveyed, which, it is hoped, will be put on record in the published proceedings of the Society.

No State in the Union presents a richer field for historical investigation than our own, and our Society has performed a good work in digging out and placing on record so much interesting, important and valuable material in relation to our early history. The Bibliography of Maine, prepared by Hon. William Willis and published at New York in 1869, gives the titles of over ninety separate works relating wholly to the history and antiquities of this State, and mentions thirty-two works which are allusions to Maine. With the references to more than one hundred titles to essays and papers found in the collections of the several State Historical Societies and the transactions of other learned bodies, and his list was by no means complete. Since 1869, several very important works relating to Maine have also been published. The State Historical Society has issued six volumes of collections the last of which was published in 1893, and we understand that the next volume will be published in the near future. Still, we think the Society would perform a vast deal more of good if it should call to its aid the service of some of our young and enthusiastic students of local history, and by this means render itself better known among the people. We fear it aims to be aristocratic and dignified rather than popular and useful. It would also seem that it is rather slow to recognize the claims of those engaged in the work of preparing our local histories, &c., although to our knowledge, such of our writers as have been recognized as the settlement of the question as to which river was the Saunon of our early explorers, or whether the Bashaba of the Indians was the name of an officer or an officer. We will mention but one or two instances. 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